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**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET**

DATE: November 17, 2004

TO: Examiner Andrew L. Oltmans  
Group Art Unit 1742  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549  
For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS  
AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME  
Our Ref.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)

FROM: Luke A. Kilyk, Esq. *LK*

FAC. TEL. NO.: 1-703-872-9306

**NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 28**

Items Attached: Amendment -- 24 pages  
Petition for a 4-Month Extension of Time -- 1 page  
Fee Transmittal -- 1 page  
Request for Continued Examination -- 1 page

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Donald S. Prater  
Name

*Donald S. Prater*  
Signature

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Michaluk	)	Examiner: Andrew L. Oltmans
	)	
Application Number: 10/042,549	)	Group Art Unit: 1742
	)	
Filed: January 9, 2002	)	Confirmation No.: 5470
	)	
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)	)	

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 17, 2004

Sir:

This Amendment is a Submission accompanying a Request for Continued Examination as defined in 37 CFR 1.114 and is in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2003 in the above-identified application. The application is currently pending by virtue of a Notice of Appeal filed on May 17, 2004, together with a three month extension of time, the Notice of Appeal establishing an extendible due date of July 17, 2004 for filing an appeal brief, which due date is extended to November 17, 2004 by the filing herewith of a Petition for a Four-Month Extension of Time and the requisite fee.

The amendments to the specification begin at page 2 of this paper.

The amendments to the claims begin at page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin at page 13 of this paper.